

Message Text

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11-L
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 DLOS-04 OFA-01 L-03 IO-10 EB-07

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R 032247Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3844
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4696

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, EC, PE, CI
SUBJECT: GOC OPINION ON PACIFIC COAST FISHERIES PROBLEM

REF: STATE 142763

1. SUMMARY: GOC FONMIN SUGGESTS USG REACH SOME TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION WITH ECUADOR ON TUNA FISHING IN 200-MILE ZONE. END SUMMARY.
 2. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON FONMIN CARVAJAL JULY 3 PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON ON CONSULTATION, AND RAN OVER IN ROUTINE WAY NUMBER OF PROBLEMS IN WHICH US AND CHILE ARE INTERESTED. RESPONSES WERE PREDICTABLE AND AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.
 3. NEAR END OF MEETING, FONMIN SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST A WAY IN WHICH USG COULD DEMONSTRATE ITS GOOD WILL IN CONNECTION WITH IMPROVEMENT OF INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND STRENGTHENING OF US ROLE AS POWER INTERESTED IN LATIN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. SAID HE HAD IMPRESSION A US FISHERIES GROUP WOULD BE VISITING PACIFIC COAST COUNTRIES OF SOUTH AMERICA. IF THEY DID SO, HE HOPED USG MIGHT TAKE AN INITIATIVE WHICH WOULD HELP RESOLVE THE FISHERIES PROBLEM WHICH HAD BECOME SO ACUTE IN CONNECTION WITH THE 200-MILE CLAIM BY ECP POWERS: ALTHOUGH CHILEAN POSITION NOT ON ALL
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FOURS WITH THAT OF ECUADOR AND PERU, AND NO TUNA FISHING

TOOK PLACE OFF CHILEAN COAST, FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS OF THE THREE COUNTRIES WERE ESSENTIALLY SIMILAR.

4. CARVAJAL SAID CHILE SYMPATHIZED WITH ECUADOREAN CASE FOR EXCLUDING CALIFORNIA TUNA FISHING FROM 200-MILE ZONE OFF ECUADOR. HE THOUGHT THAT IF USG COULD FIND SOME WAY TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH ECUADOR TO PUT AN END TO US FISHING OPERATIONS IN 200-MILE ZONE, THIS WOULD UNDERSCORE US GOOD WILL, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF PROBLEMS CREATED BY GSP EXCLUSION PROVISIONS OF TRADE ACT OF 1974 WHICH HAD HIT ECUADOR AS OPEC MEMBER. CARVAJAL STRESSED THAT SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD HAVE POSITIVE REPERCUSSIONS FOR US RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

5. AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD IMPRESSION THAT US IS SEEKING RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM IN A WAY WHICH WOULD NOT PROHIBIT US FISHING, BUT ALLOW IT ON A BASIS ACCEPTABLE TO ECUADOR. PERHAPS SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE UNDER THE GENERAL LOS TREATY WE HOPED WOULD BE CONCLUDED IN NEXT YEAR OR SO.

6. CARVAJAL AGREED THAT SOME SUCH ARRANGEMENT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE AND SUGGESTED AN INTERIM AGREEMENT WOULD BE DESIRABLE PENDING COMPLETION OF LOS TREATY AND WHATEVER PERMANENT ARRANGEMENT MIGHT BE MADE WITH ECUADOR. HE NOTED THAT TUNA FISHING SEASON BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER, SO THAT TIME WAS IMPORTANT.

7. AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER HE COULD REPORT CARVAJAL'S SUGGESTION TO DEPARTMENT, AND CARVAJAL READILY AGREED.

8. COMMENT: WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN AS TO WHAT MOTIVATED CARVAJAL'S SUGGESTION, BUT IT IS VERY PROBABLY CONNECTED WITH DESIRE TO WIN BROWNIE POINTS WITH ECUADOR, POSSIBLY IN RELATION TO CHILE'S PERENNIAL DIFFICULTIES WITH PERU. WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHETHER EITHER EMBASSY QUITO OR EMBASSY LIMA HAS HEARD OF ANY NEW SUGGESTION THAT USG SHOULD UNILATERALLY MAKE A PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT REGARDING TUNA FISHING IN ECUADOR'S 200-MILE ZONE.
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